



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
6013 Lakeside Blvd.  
Indianapolis, IN 46278

---

February 5, 2007

INDIANA BULLETIN NO. IN. 300-7-15

SUBJECT: LTP - 2007 EQIP Ground and Surface Water Conservation Program

Purpose: To announce Indiana's 2007 EQIP Ground and Surface Water Conservation (GSWC) Program

Expiration Date: September 30, 2007

**Background:** Indiana received an EQIP GSWC allocation (\$235,000) for the first time in FY 2007. The purpose of GSWC is to promote ground and surface water conservation by providing cost-share and incentive payments to producers to carry out eligible water conservation activities with respect to the agricultural operations. In Indiana this program will be used to:

- (1) Improve irrigation systems;
- (2) Enhance irrigation efficiencies;
- (3) Promote drainage with management;

A participant may receive assistance to implement an EQIP plan of operations for water conservation with GSWC funds only if the assistance will facilitate a net savings of ten (10) percent in ground or surface water resources in the agricultural operation of the producer.

A participant will be eligible for cost-share or incentive payments for irrigation related structural and land management practices only on land that has been irrigated for two of the last five years prior to application for assistance.

**Eligibility:**

1. Producers must meet basic EQIP eligibility requirements.
2. For practices **441, 442, 443, 449**.
  - a. The land must have been irrigated 2 out of the previous 5 years.
  - b. Producers must show to NRCS (through a consultant or other irrigation professional, or through NRCS's use of the CSP FY06 Irrigation Water Management Index) that their existing irrigation system's efficiency can be improved by at least 10%.
  - c. Producers must agree to implement Practice 449 to receive incentives for 441, 442, & 443.
3. For practices **554** and **587**:
  - a. Producers must agree to implement Drainage Water Management according to the 554 standard in the Indiana eFOTG.
4. Funds are available on a statewide basis

DIST: 0

### **Priorities/Ranking**

1. The EQIP National Ranking System through ProTracts will be used to determine funding priority.
  - a. **Eligible Resource Concerns**
    - i. Aquifer Overdraft
    - ii. Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land
    - iii. Inefficient Water Use on Non-irrigated Land
    - iv. Reduced Storage of Water Bodies by Sediment Accumulation
  - b. **Local Ranking** will not be addressed for Indiana's FY07 EQIP GSWC.
  - c. **State Ranking**
    - i. Applications within LaPorte County = 20 Points; LaGrange Co. = 18 Points; Elkhart Co. = 16 Points; Jasper Co. = 14 Points; St. Joseph Co. = 12 Points; Rest of the State = 0 Points.
    - ii. Applications that include both Irrigation Water Management and Drainage Water Management. = 20 Points.
    - iii. Applications impacting organically grown crops, perennial truck crops, perennial crops grown for seed, vines, orchards, and/or annually planted crops other than corn for grain, soybeans, and wheat = 20 Points.
  - d. **National Ranking** will be set by NHQ

### **Practices Eligible for Ground and Surface Water Incentive Payments**

Practice Code	Practice Name	Unit Type	FY 07 Unit Cost	Cost Type	Share Rate	# of incentive years
554	Drainage Water Management(554)	AC	\$40	FR	100%	3
441	Irrigation Systems, Micro-Irrigation(441) <sup>1,3</sup>	NO	\$3,000	FR	100%	1
442	Irrigation Systems, Sprinkler(442) <sup>1,3</sup>	NO	\$3,000	FR	100%	1
443	Irrigation Systems, Surface and Subsurface(443) <sup>1,3</sup>	NO	\$3,000	FR	100%	1
449	Irrigation Water Management(449)-Site Evaluation and Irrigation Water Management Plan Development by a private consultant	NO	\$500	FR	100%	1
449	Irrigation Water Management(449)-years 1,2 &3 to implement plan <sup>2</sup>	Acre	\$5	FR	100%	3
587	Structure for Water Control(587)Only eligible when used in conjunction with Drainage Water management(554)	NO	\$1,500	FR	100%	1

<sup>1</sup> Irrigation Water Management (449) must be scheduled to receive incentive payments for these practices.

<sup>2</sup> If applying nutrients with irrigation, the application rates must be based on Indiana stds. 590 and/or 633.

<sup>3</sup> Maximum payment will not exceed 5 Systems per applicant.

Ranking will follow the basic guidelines for EQIP. The applications will be entered into Protracts using the fund code –EQIP-GSWC-FA. TSP TA is not available for this program. The ranking and cost list for EQIP GSWC will be used. Funding will be considered on the same schedule as EQIP. Questions should be directed to the programs staff.

/s/

J. XAVIER MONTOYA  
Acting State Conservationist